been earmarked for the North-Eastern States including Tripura. The State-wise allocation has not been finalized.

Flow of the ten per cent plan funds to NE States

5605. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a policy decision was taken for ensuring flow of 10 per cent of the plan fund of all ministries for North-East region to ensure speedy development;

(b) if so, whether this decision is being implemented;

(c) what yardstick has been adopted by his ministry for sub-allocation of this 10 per cent fund among the North- East State;

(d) whether his Ministry has communicated to the Government of North-East States the yardstick adopted by it for sub-allocation of this 10 per cent fund; and

(e) out of this 10 per cent fund what proportion is sanctioned for Tripura State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (e) Ten per cent of the Plan funds for Rural Development Programmes of this Ministry have been earmarked in BE 2000-01 for North-East region. The State-wise allocation has not been finalised.

Backward districts in rural areas

5606. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to segregate the backward districts which could not prosper despite special provisions; and

(b) the action proposed to develop such rural areas ensuring the basic minimum standards of infrastructure for such rural poor people justifying rural development on a priority basis for such areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) A Committee (headed by Principal Adviser, Planning Commission) was constituted in 1997 to, *inter alia*, identify the 100 most backward/poorest districts in the country. The broad parameters adopted by the Committee to analyse the cause of backwardness, included indicators of deprivation (poverty ratio) and social and economic infrastructure. The